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UNIVERSAL TIME.

The scheme for making the standard time of all countries of the world depend on the Greenwich meridian has advanced another step. Since November 1 last, the time used on the Italian railways, and probably, therefore, throughout the country, is that of a meridian exactly 1 hour east of Greenwich.

The following summary gives the present state of things with reference to the Universal Time question :

(1) England, Belgium and Holland use Greenwich time.

(2) In Germany the legal time since May 1, 1893, is exactly 1 hour fast on Greenwich. Italy uses similar time; and a bill is before the Austrian Parliament whose purpose is to make such time legal in Austria. In Sweden the time in use is almost exactly 1 hour fast on Greenwich.

(3) In Australia the Postal and Telegraph Conference, lately held, passed a resolution that it would be advisable to use one time throughout the Continent, that time being 9 hours fast on Greenwich.

(4) In the United States and Canada the territories are divided into hourly zones, in each of which the time in use is respectively 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 hours slow on Greenwich time.

At the same time that the above change was made on the Italian railways it was decided to adopt the 24-hour system of time notation, the next hour after noon being called 13. It is strange that this plan was proposed so long as twenty-six years ago, and only now been adopted. We have lately had brought to our notice a circular issued in the Paris Exhibition of 1867, in which this plan was proposed and specimen railway time-tables made in accordance with it. A writer in *L'Astronomie* asks how long will France have to wait for this reform? We re-echo the enquiry with relation to England.—From *The Observatory* for December, 1893.

[*Addendum.* In addition to what is given above it may be noted that the standard on all the oceans is practically Greenwich time. The Greenwich standard—with a change of the integral hour only—prevails nearly continuously, therefore, from 1 hour east of Greenwich (Austria, Germany, Italy) across the Atlantic, the continent of North America (where the system has been in use since November, 1883) and across the Pacific also. E. S. H.]

AWARD OF THE ARAGO MEDAL TO PROFESSORS HALL AND
BARNARD.

The Paris Academy of Sciences has awarded the ARAGO Medal to Professor HALL of Washington and to Professor BARNARD of the LICK Observatory, for their discoveries of new satellites to the planets *Mars* (HALL, 1877) and *Jupiter* (BARNARD, 1892), respectively.

E. S. H.

THE NEW DUDLEY OBSERVATORY.

By the courtesy of the editor of the *Scientific American* we are able to give, in the present number, a view of the new DUDLEY Observatory at Albany. See these *Publications*, Vol. V, pp. 100, 226.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LITERATURE OF *Nova Aurigæ*.

Contributions to the literature of the new star of 1892, *Nova Aurigæ*, have continued to be numerous, even in the last half of the year 1893. Professor VOGEL's comprehensive paper of sixty quarto pages is most interesting and suggestive. It comprises the Potsdam observations in full; a scholarly review of all the important observations made at other observatories; criticisms of the theories propounded by others for explaining the *Nova*; and, finally, the statement of his own theory.

Professor VOGEL's paper called out several counter-criticisms, notably those of Professor SEELIGER and Dr. BELOPOLSKY. It was our purpose to review all these papers in this number of the *Publications*. But the discovery of another "new star" in *Norma*, whose spectrum is apparently identical with that of *Nova Aurigæ*, renders it unwise to make any comments until the complete observations of *Nova Normæ* are published. The discovery of two such stars with identical spectra will probably modify very essentially the views now generally held. We shall, however, print herewith a translation of Professor VOGEL's concluding paragraphs containing the statement of his theory.

W. W. C.

Mt. HAMILTON, January 1, 1894.